



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application

Inventors: Barry N. Gardiner  
Paul T. McDonald  
Richard D. Phipps

SC/Serial No.: 08/781,579

Filed: January 9, 1997

Title: SUTURED STAPLE SURGICAL  
FASTENERS, INSTRUMENTS AND  
METHODS FOR MINIMALLY  
INVASIVE VASCULAR AND  
ENDOSCOPIC SURGERY

**PATENT APPLICATION**

Art Unit: 3731

Examiner: Pham, T.

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GROUP 3200

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited in the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on August 20, 1998.

*Dona C. Edwards*  
Dona C. Edwards, Reg. No. 42,507  
Signature Date: August 20, 1998

**RESPONSE B TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This RESPONSE B is in reply to the Office Action mailed July 20, 1998.

**Amendments**

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: